

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 017221 TOSEC 010140
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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S E C R E T STATE 017221 TOSEC 010140

NODIS

WH FOR DR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT SEOUL 551 SENT ACTION SECSTATE JAN 21.

QUOTE S E C R E T SEOUL 551

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJ: TONG SUN PARK AFFAIRS: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

REF: A) STATE 11009, B) STATE 13410

1. AS I WAS DEPARTING FONMIN'S OFFICE JANUARY 20, HE MENTIONED THAT HE HAD HEARD FROM AMBASSADOR KIM IN WASHINGTON IN RESPECT TO KIM'S MEETING WITH SPEAKER O'NEIL. ACCORDING TO FONMIN, SPEAKER HAD SUGGESTED TONG SUN PARK APPEAR IN EXECUTIVE SESSION BEFORE ETHICS COMMITTEE PRIOR TO THE TRIALS AND IN PUBLIC SESSION AFTER TRIALS. FONMIN THOUGHT THE MEETING WAS "VERY USEFUL." I POINTED OUT THAT IT MIGHT BE WELL THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR APPEARANCES BEFORE ETHICS COMMIT-

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TEES, WHICH WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO ROKG, BE LEFT TO NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN TONG SUN PARK AND ETHICS COMMITTEES WITHOUT EITHER GOVERNMENT GETTING DIRECTLY INVOLVED.

2. FONMIN AGREED THAT THIS WAS PREFERRED PROCEDURE, BUT RAISED ONE POSSIBLE DIFFICULTY. HE SAID THAT IF JAWORSKI CONTINUED THREATENING STATEMENTS, IT WOULD POSE PROBLEM

FOR ROKG SINCE IT DID NOT WISH TO APPEAR TO BE BOWING TO SUCH PUBLIC PRESSURES. I URGED HIM TO OVERLOOK THE STATEMENTS ALREADY MADE AND MENTIONED THAT CONGRESSMAN CAPUTO HAD TOLD ME THAT HE REALIZED SUCH STATEMENT COULD BE UNHELPFUL.

3. COMMENT I WAS STRUCK DURING THIS PART OF OUR CONVERSATION BY FONMIN'S IMPLICIT ACCEPTANCE OF EVENTUAL APPEARANCE BEFORE ETHICS COMMITTEES BY TONG SUN PARK. HE RAISED NO REPEAT NO OBJECTIONS IN PRINCIPLE AND DID NOT REPEAT NOT REFER TO PROVISIONS OF VARIOUS AGREEMENTS WITH RESPECT TO CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, EXCEPT TO REFER TO JAWORSKI'S THREATS. I THINK WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY IN BRINGING KOREAN GOVERNMENT AROUND TO ACCEPTING THE NECESSITY FOR APPEARANCE BEFORE TWO ETHICS COMMITTEES PROVIDING APPEARANCES DO NOT APPEAR TO BE CONSEQUENCE OF FORMAL ROKG AGREEMENT OR RESULT OF PUBLIC THREATS AND PRESSURES. OF COURSE, THERE IS STILL SOME WAYS TO GO AND I WILL CONTINUE MY BACK STAGE EFFORTS.
SNEIDER UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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